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September 21, 2011

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**REP. RICK KRISEMAN URGES FLORIDA OFFICIALS
TO COLLECT UNREMITTED TAXES FROM ONLINE TRAVEL FIRMS**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – During a press conference today, State Rep. Rick Kriseman (D-St. Petersburg) called on Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and the director of the state Department of Revenue to collect unremitted taxes from online travel companies that conduct business in the state.

“Like every other business and citizen in Florida, online travel companies have an obligation to pay their taxes, and they’ve avoided doing so for a long time,” said Representative Kriseman.

“The Department of Revenue is very vigilant in pursuing those who fail to pay their taxes when that violator is a small business owner or an individual who lacks the resources to employ a lobbying firm. I think that online travel giants should be treated like every other tax avoider.”

Pinellas County Tax Collector Diane Nelson issued a statement in coordination with Representative Kriseman’s press conference, stating: “Our law is very clear, and all the players in this game have known for years that taxes are due. I urge our Attorney General’s Office and the Department of Revenue to enforce the law.”

Representative Kriseman vowed to continue drawing attention to this issue until Florida’s leaders do the right thing and ensure that online travel companies pay their obligations to Floridians.

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